The 4 R’s

Long ago the 3 R’s referred to ‘Reading, ‘Riting, and ‘Rithematic. I believe it is the educator’s duty to help students understand the value of education. To do so we must commit to the 4 R’s:

RELATIONSHIPS – We must establish trust by offering a safe environment for a community of learners where students can be themselves and feel free to take risks.

RELEVANCE – We must bring the world into classrooms and help students see the interconnectedness of all things. We must help them see where they fit in the “big picture.” Students have a right to ask, “Why do we need to learn this?”

RIGOR – All students have the right to challenging, high levels of thinking. 21st Century Skills of creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration are crucial. We should never be “Gatekeepers” of access to respectful, authentic tasks or appropriate levels of academic challenge.

RESILIENCE – We must share stories of resilience. Students need to learn that overcoming obstacles is the essence of life.